John P. FALLON et al., S.N. 09/449,002   Dkt. 1166/58111
Page 2

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Claims 1-22 (canceled).

23. (previously presented) A computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for creating a DICOM compliant file, said code comprising:

code for creating a report, including quantitative data, from acquisition data generated by at least one of an image capture device and another form of data entry;

code for creating a bitmap image file representing the created report;

code for embedding the bitmap image file in an image field of a DICOM compliant file; and

code for embedding the quantitative data in a field of the DICOM compliant file other than the image field.

24. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data comprises raw data used to create the report.

25. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data comprises bone mineral density (BMD) data.

John P. FALLON et al., S.N. 09/449,002   Dkt. 1166/58111
Page 3

26. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the other form of data entry includes manual entry.

27. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the other field comprises an Image Comments field of the DICOM file.

28. (new) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 27, wherein data in the Image Comments Field include parameters which control a process of report generation and customization of a report.

29. (new) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data includes analysis results in computer readable form.

30. (new) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data is in a form of at least one of HTML, XML and Java Script files.

31. (new) A method for communicating quantitative data by using a DICOM file, said method comprising:

generating a report image file from quantitative data;

embedding the report image file as an image file portion of the DICOM file; and

embedding the quantitative data, used to create the report image file, in a portion of the DICOM file other than the image file portion; and

reconstructing a report utilizing the DICOM file including the quantitative data.

John P. FALLON et al., S.N. 09/449,002   Dkt. 1166/58111
Page 4

32. (new) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the report image file includes a

bitmap image.

33. (new) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the quantitative data used to

create the report image file includes raw data.

34. (new) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the quantitative data used to

create the report image file includes bone mineral density (BMD) data.

35. (new) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the quantitative data comprises

BMD data, T scores and Z scores.

36. (new) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the quantitative data is in a form

of at least one of HTML, XML and Java Script files.

37. (new) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the quantitative data includes

analysis results in computer readable form.

38. (new) A method as recited in claim 31, wherein the quantitative data is

embedded in an image comments field of the DICOM file.

39. (new) A method for communicating medical information through a composite

file which comprises quantitative data and image data, said method comprising:

       performing an image acquisition of at least a portion of a patient to be examined;

       generating image data based on the performed acquisition;

       generating quantitative data based on the performed acquisition;

       constructing a composite file, the image data is provided in an image data field of the composite file and the quantitative data is provided in one or more fields of the composite file other than the image data field; and

       generating a report utilizing the composite file including the quantitative data.

40. (new) A method as recited in claim 39, further comprising:

       communicating the composite file across a network; and

       extracting the quantitative data from the composite file,

       wherein the report is generated using the extracted quantitative data.

41. (new) A method as recited in claim 40, wherein the extraction of the quantitative data is performed using a software control.